

**STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**October 3, 2022**

**Docket No. 2022-00255**

**VERSANT POWER  
Request for Approval of a Rate Change – 307**

**PETITION**

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1. Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 307 and Chapter 120 of the Commission’s Rules, Versant Power (“Versant” or the “Company”) requests that the Commission approve an increase in Versant’s distribution rates. As described in the enclosed pre-filed testimony and exhibits detailed below, Versant is seeking approval of an annual distribution revenue requirement of \$139,907,706. Rate effective year revenues at current rates are forecast to be \$106,417,348, which results in a revenue deficiency of \$33,490,358, necessitating a rate increase of approximately 31.47%.
  2. Versant’s rate request reflects needed investments in a new metering system for all customers, investments to improve the reliability of the electric grid, and investments in our employees to ensure that Versant can continue to deliver a high level of service with its Maine-based workforce, among other things. Versant’s rate request also reflects vendor price increases and general inflationary impacts to the cost of doing business.
  3. Versant recognizes that customers are struggling with record high supply rates. To mitigate the impact of its rate request, Versant does not seek any increase in its allowed rate of return as part of this rate case, despite Versant’s expert recommending a significantly higher return on equity based on current market conditions.
  4. In support of this Petition, Versant has enclosed the information required by Chapter 120 and the pre-filed testimony and exhibits of the following witnesses:

<b>Witness(es)</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>
John Flynn, President	Versant Power	Introduction and Overview
Kris Chahley, Jennifer Ireland, & Dave Davoren	Versant Power	Revenue Requirements
Paul Miller, Kyle Ravin, and Michelle Austin	Versant Power	Capital Forecast
Larry J. Rocha	Versant Power	Information Technology
Mike Adams	Concentric Energy Advisors	Cash Working Capital
Kendra Overlock, Lisa Henaghan, and Allison Doughty	Versant Power	Customer Experience
Paul Miller, Steve Sloan, & Kyle Ravin	Versant Power	Distribution Operations and Reliability
Melissa Scott	Versant Power	Human Resources, Employee Compensation, and Medical Expenses
Kris Chahley, Trevor Wilde, and Troy Marsh	Versant Power and ENMAX Corporation	Affiliate Services
Haley Ambrose & Tim Olesniewicz	Versant Power	Sales and Revenue Forecast and Rate Calculations
Melissa F. Bartos	Concentric Energy Advisers	Econometric Sales Forecasts
Jim Coyne	Concentric Energy Advisors	Return on Equity
John Wiedmayer	Gannett Fleming Valuation and Rate Consultants, LLC	Depreciation Study

5. Consistent with the requirements of 35-A M.R.S. § 307, Versant has enclosed tariff sheets including the proposed rates with an effective date of November 2, 2022. If the Commission suspends Versant’s proposed rates for the maximum time allowed under 35-A M.R.S. § 310, Versant’s new rates would become effective on July 2, 2023. To the extent possible, Versant respectfully requests that the Commission approve Versant’s new rates with an effective date of July 1, 2023, for administrative efficiency and to minimize the number of rate changes for customers.

6. Through this proceeding, Versant also seeks accounting orders to defer, for future recovery, costs associated with: (1) the integrated system planning requirements of LD 1959 pertaining to Versant’s distribution system; and (2) “make-ready” work associated with Maine’s Broadband Initiative and rural broadband expansion efforts. An accounting order is appropriate because these are extraordinary costs mandated by the Maine Legislature to serve policy goals and are virtually certain to be incurred during the rate year but are not currently included in the proposed revenue requirement. For more information regarding these requests for deferral mechanisms, please see the Distribution Operations and Reliability of Paul Miller, Steve Sloan, & Kyle Ravin.

Respectfully submitted on October 3, 2022

**Versant Power**  
By its attorneys,

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